

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending in the application, and claims 1-3 are amended to clarify their recitation of the invention and to address minor informalities. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action indicates that the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 8, 2000 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for lacking a concise explanation of relevance of non-English language references. Applicants are filing herewith another Information Disclosure Statement, including the English abstracts for Japanese Application Nos. 53-43794 and 5-69014 for the Examiner's consideration.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claims 1 and 3 for various informalities. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 3 to address the informalities, and Applicants submit that the objection is overcome.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for lack of clarity and lack of antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claims 1-3 for clarity and antecedent basis and, accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lindstrom et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,321,103, in view of Kuhnhold et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,413,656. Applicants traverse the rejection because the combined teaching of Lindstrom et al. and Kuhnhold et al. fails to disclose or suggest the features recited in the claims.

The present application is directed to a method for attaching an adhesive tape, including rolling an attaching roller having adhesive strength on the non-adhesive surface of the adhesive tape so that the adhesive tape is transferred onto and held in tight contact with the attaching roller, and then rolling the attaching roller on a surface of a member so that the

adhesive tape adhered to the attaching roller is transferred to and attached onto the surface of the member.

Lindstrom et al., in contrast, is directed to using belts 38 and 40 to deliver and apply labels to various articles. Importantly, belt 38 travels around the roller 44 (see Figs. 1-3, column 2, lines 62-63), so that the roller 44 does not actually come in contact with any surface of a label and, accordingly, the label cannot be transferred onto the roller 44 as alleged in the Office Action.

Lindstrom et al. discloses that “although the surfaces of the belts 38, 40 are of “silicone nature” they are nevertheless (by reason of the squeegee action of the belts) enabled to transport therebetween at high speed the printed labels,” (column 3, lines 32-36). In other words, the labels are pinched in place between belts 38, 40 due to the “constant and uniform belt tension” (column 3, line 42) between belts 38, 40, and not because of an attaching roller having an adhesive strength. Because Lindstrom et al. discloses that belt 38 is surface-coated with a release agent, one of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that the adhesive strength between the non-adhesive side of the label and belt 38 (which travels around roller 44) is negligible.

In fact, Lindstrom et al. discloses that “the silicon surface functions as a release agency and permits the labels to freely peel away from the belts and to roll into proper positions... under the roller 44,” (column 3, lines 46-50). Therefore, because the labels freely peel away from the belts, Lindstrom et al. does not disclose or suggest that a non-adhesive surface of the label is held in tight contact with the roller 44 due to an adhesive strength of the roller 44.

Kuhnhold et al. fails to remedy this defect. Kuhnhold et al. is directed to a method of winding a continuous web, including applying a double-sided strip of adhesive using a transfer roller. The double-sided strip of adhesive does not have a non-adhesive surface. Kuhnhold et al. does not reveal any way to modify a roller to effect a degree of adhesion between the roller and a non-adhesive side of a label as disclosed in Lindstrom et al., because the adhesive strength in Kuhnhold et al. originates from the double-sided strip of adhesive, and not from a roller having an adhesive strength as specified in the claims. Therefore, if combined with the mechanism of Lindstrom et al., the Kuhnhold et al. roller would not produce an adhesive strength between the roller and the non-adhesive surface of a label.

Thus, the combined teaching of Lindstrom et al. and Kuhnhold et al. does not disclose or suggest a method for attaching an adhesive tape including rolling an attaching roller having

adhesive strength on a non-adhesive surface of the tape so that it is transferred onto the roller and is held in tight contact therewith, and rolling the attaching roller on a member so that the tape is transferred to and attached to the member, as recited in claim 1. With respect to claim 2, Applicants submit that claim 2 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lindstrom et al. over Kuhnhold et al., further in view of Adachi, U.S. Patent No. 4,468,274. Adachi is directed to a method of bonding a label including providing a label from a supply roll and cutting the label into sections of various lengths. Adachi fails to remedy the deficiencies of Lindstrom et al. and Kuhnhold et al. as explained above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 3 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependence from claim 1 via intervening claim 2. Therefore Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the claims are now believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

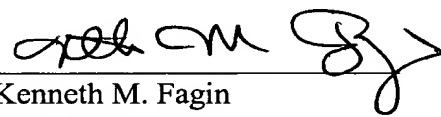
Attached is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned **“Version with markings to show changes made”**.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By: _____


Kenneth M. Fagin

Reg. No.: 37,615

Tel. No.: (703) 905-2066

Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

KMF/ASW/smm
1600 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000

Enclosure: Appendix

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is amended as follows:

Page 1, paragraph beginning at line 19, is amended as follows:

For example, JP-B-53-43794 discloses a labeling machine for attaching labels onto bottles or the like. The labeling machine includes a labeling mechanism constituted by [absorption] suction drums for [absorbing] suctioning labels from a label holder and an attaching drum for [absorbing] suctioning labels and pressing the labels onto a side surface of bottles or the like. In the labeling machine, the [absorption] suction drums are disposed apart from the attaching drum, each of the [absorption] suction drums being provided with a receiving frame for receiving a label on the attaching drum side and in a position along the traveling direction of the attaching drum, and further provided with a member for pressing the label in the receiving frame onto the side surface of the attaching drum.

Page 3, paragraph beginning at line 5, is amended as follows:

For example, the method disclosed in JP-B-53-43794 discloses a method for attaching a label onto a substantially cylindrical portion of a bottle, a can or the like, in which a label is [absorbed] suctioned onto [an absorption] a suction drum so as to be delivered to an attaching drum, and paste is applied to the label [absorbed] suctioned on the attaching drum by a pasting drum. Thus, the label is attached to a bottle or the like. In such a manner, the number of times of delivery of a label among the drums is very large. Further, means for [absorbing] suctioning a label onto the drums uses a vacuum. Accordingly, there is a problem that the structure and the timing control are so complicated that it is difficult to apply the method to such a case where tape is attached onto opposite surfaces of a large-sized and curved plate-like body.

Page 11, paragraph beginning at line 23, is amended as follows:

In addition, [an absorption] a suction unit 20 is provided in at least one place [of] at either one or both sides of each of the fixed supports 43 and 43 so that the [absorption] suction surface of [an absorption] a suction pad 21 is made to face up and the [absorption] suction surface is disposed in the position having substantially the same height as that of the supporting rod 42. Accordingly, the [absorption] suction pad 21 [absorbs] suctions the lower surface of the plate-like body G and fixes the plate-like body G.

Page 16, paragraph beginning at line 1, is amended as follows:

As soon as the plate-like body G is put on the supporting rods 42 and 42, [absorption] suction pads 21 and 21 of [an absorption] a suction unit 20 provided outside fixed supports 43 and 43 [absorb] suction and fix the lower surface of the plate-like body G.

Page 16, paragraph beginning at line 5, is amended as follows:

As shown in Fig. 2A, the attaching roller 31 is moved to a predetermined position of the plate-like body G fixed by the [absorption] suction pads 21 and 21, and the attaching roller 31 is rolled, while being pressed, on the plate-like body G in the position to be attached so that the adhesive tape piece 2 is transferred from the attaching roller 31 and attached onto the plate-like body G. In the same manner, the adhesive tape pieces 2, 2, . . . are attached sequentially to two or three places on the front surface of the plate-like body G and two to four places on the back surface.

Page 17, paragraph beginning at line 1, is amended as follows:

When a predetermined number of adhesive tape pieces 2 have been attached onto the opposite surfaces of the plate-like body G, the [absorption] suction pads 21 for [absorbing] suctioning and fixing the plate-like body G are released, and the plate-like body G is conveyed to the next process by the conveyor means (not shown).

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. A method for attaching an adhesive tape comprising the steps of:
disposing the adhesive tape having an adhesive surface on a support body with said adhesive surface down such that said adhesive surface is in contact with said support body;
rolling an attaching roller having adhesive strength on [the other not-adhesive] an opposite, non-adhesive surface of said adhesive tape so that said adhesive tape is transferred onto said attaching roller and is [come into] held in tight contact therewith; and
rolling said attaching roller on a surface of a member [to be attached] which is located in a predetermined position so that said adhesive tape adhered to said attaching roller is transferred to and attached onto the surface of said member,
wherein respective adhesive strengths A, B and C are set to have a relation of $A < B < C$, where A designates adhesive strength between the adhesive surface of said adhesive tape and said support body, B designates adhesive strength between the [not-adhesive] non-adhesive

surface of said adhesive tape and said attaching roller, and C designates adhesive strength between the adhesive surface of said adhesive tape and said member [to be attached].

2. A method for attaching an adhesive tape according to claim 1, wherein said support body [is constructed by] comprises a conveyor belt [conducted with] that has been subjected to a reduction treatment [reducing] to reduce adhesivity between the adhesive surface of said adhesive tape and said support body.

3. A method for attaching an adhesive tape according to claim 2, further comprising the step of:

cutting a [roll-like] roll-form adhesive tape into adhesive tape pieces having a predetermined length,

wherein said adhesive tape pieces are disposed one by one on said conveyor belt with their adhesive surfaces down such that said adhesive surface is in contact with said conveyor belt, and said adhesive tape pieces are conveyed by said conveyor belt to a position where said adhesive tape pieces are transferred onto said attaching roller.

End of Appendix